415 324 At each of the four upper corners a hole was drilled through the wall so that it issued about one-half inch below on the long side. The holes enabled the pot to be suspended by means of two loops of sealskin or plaited caribou sinew, one at each long end, from a horizontal rod; and the loops were adjusted to bring the bottom of the pot about one-half inch above the flame of the blubber lamp. In summer, when a pot was seldom or never suspended over an open fire, but rested on two or three stones, the loops were liable to hang down and be burned in the flames; accordingly, the housewife usually replaced them with two cords that ran diagonally between opposite corners, and allowed her also to raise the pot with one hand.

The wall of a pot often fractured at a corner hole, whereupon a second hole was drilled alongside the former one, in large vessels through the wall of the longer side, but in small ones occasionally through the end wall. Fractures in [414] the body of the pot were mended with short bands of beaten copper as we mend [381] China and porcelain, holes being drilled on each side of the fracture. The Copper Eskimo appeared to use no cement other than fat or grease to fill up the crack.

All pots, except the very smallest, had a low horizontal ridge carved across each short end about half-way down its outer face. Its original purpose, no doubt, was to facilitate the handling of the vessel, especially when mittens were worn, but in modern times it was largely ornamental, for it seldom projected more than about one-eighth inch and did not increase or decrease with the size of the vessel.

Pots varied in size from toys an inch or two long to vessels of 24 inches, capable of holding several quarts. An average vessel for use over a blubber lamp was about 18 inches long, 7 inches wide, and 4½ inches deep, with sides roughly ¼-inch thick. These were the dimensions at the top of the vessel; the bottom was about an inch shorter and half an inch narrower. Some of the larger pots in the possession of the National Museum of Canada have the following dimensions:

Catalogue number	Length	Breadth	Depth	Thickness
	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches
IV.D.677	23¼	7¼	5	¼
IV.D.682	23	8¼	4¼	☆
IV.D.666	22¼	6¼	6	☆
IV.D.686	19¼	8¼	5	☆
IV.D.1563	19	9	4¼	☆

415 324 414 356

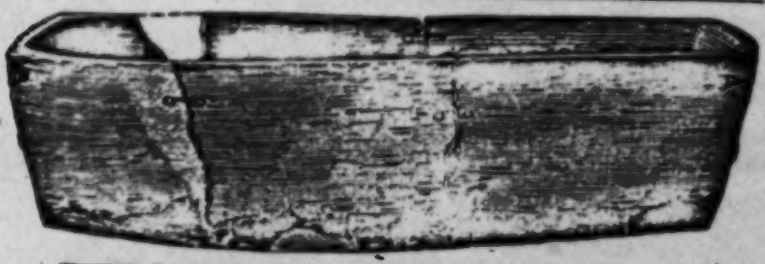

Figure 58. Soapstone pot repaired with copper bands. IV.D.1562. Approx. 1/3.

Three pots are shown in Figures 58-60. No. IV.D.1563 (Figure 58), obtained from a Prince Albert Sound or Minto Inlet native, is unusually